

In our NSF bill that was signed into law last December 22, we put language in that bill for grants to work with scientists from African countries to help develop the kind of products that could best help their particular country. Unfortunately, biotechnology has come under attack from some in the European Union and elsewhere who hope to avoid competition in this area. The Speaker of the House, USAID administrator, and leading scientists will testify at our congressional hearing June 12 on the safety and potential of plant biotechnology.

Back in the summer of 1999, the journal "Nature" published a study suggesting that pollen from genetically modified corn could harm the monarch butterfly population, really sort of sparking a worldwide controversy. While follow-up studies have since proven that such pollen presents no danger to monarchs, the foundations of fear based on emotion had been set, and soon other nonscience-based allegations about plant biotechnology emerged.

In response, my House Subcommittee on Research met with leading scientists across the country and followed with a series of hearings investigating the potential benefits and safety concerns associated with plant biotechnology. Our findings, compiled in a comprehensive report that we wrote that I entitled "Seeds of Opportunity," showed that crops developed through biotech were just as safe as those crops produced with traditional cross-breeding. Three years since we released the report, its findings still hold true and are now backed by an even larger body of scientific evidence. Also, America's three-pronged safety review by USDA, FDA, and EPA for biotech products comes as close to guaranteeing safety as you can get. I think that is why the Speaker of the House, DENNIS HASTERT, and several of us in Congress joined with Bush administration officials last month on May 12 to announce that the United States would file a WTO challenge to the European Union's import ban on genetically modified crops.

Enter Africa. President Bush rightly charged that the EU's ban is an unjust burden on the world's poorest countries. With approximately 180 million undernourished people and perennial low yields and quality brought about by droughts, insects and other disasters, Africa stands to benefit tremendously from GM crops. Yet here is the European Union exploiting Africa's dependency on the EU as a trading partner to stall acceptance of GM crops. Let me give Members an example. Starving Zambia rejected 23,000 tons of emergency U.S. food aid because Europe implied that it could respond by rejecting future corn exports from that particular country. There is even some evidence that EU pressure is impeding even research into new crop varieties that could feed Africa, that could cure a blight problem in bananas.

Our research subcommittee will be examining the barriers to plant biotechnology in Africa in more detail next week at the hearing and the Speaker of the House is going to be testifying about the challenge and about the safety as well as the administrator of AID and other scientists.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, sound science should drive what we do, not emotion.

Sound science, should drive trade and regulatory decisions associated with transgenic food crops, not protectionism masquerading behind a thin veil of unfounded fears. The U.S. challenge moves us one step closer to removing the unfair barriers that hurt American farmers and deny the people of Africa a wonderful tool for combating hunger.

REGARDING THE LATEST TAX CUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the President's spokespeople, the Republicans in Congress and the Republican National Committee, appear to be having some trouble with the truth, that is, because they have suggested that everyone who pays taxes would benefit from the recent tax cut. They have said that those who pay the taxes will get the tax cut, that those who earn the least will benefit the most.

It is simply not true. It is simply not true, because they made a decision to leave millions of families, with millions of children, out of the child tax credit, a tax credit that we give families to raise children. But they simply decided that those families earning between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year would not be eligible for the child tax credit. Somehow I guess these families have additional money to raise their children that people over \$26,000 a year do not have so they get to do this. They made a fundamental decision about unfairness, about inequity, about greed; and they decided that they would rather give this money to 200,000 millionaires so they could get a tax cut of \$93,000 a year because if they gave this tax cut to those families who are going to work every day trying to support their children on low wages, that they would have to give those millionaires only \$88,000 a year. So those families, those working American families between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year, got nothing in terms of the increase in the child tax credit. The rest of the families in America will get a \$400 check this summer. These families will get nothing. Yet the President, the Republicans in Congress, in the House and the Senate, want to suggest that this was an accident and they are going to cure it.

It was no accident. It was never in their bill, in either version of their bill. They simply made the decision that

they did not think these people were worthy of the child tax credit, a tax credit that passed this Congress on a bipartisan basis because we thought the government ought to do something to help these families with the cost of raising their children; so that those moms who wanted to stay home, maybe this would allow them to stay home, or those fathers who wanted to stay home, maybe this would allow them to stay home; or it would defer the cost of child care or health care or whatever it takes as we raise our children in this country. But the Republicans have now decided for millions of American families, they are not going to be treated the same.

Of course we find out as we look at this tax bill for almost 50 million Americans, they will not be treated the same because they are not going to get much of a benefit. They just simply decided that they were going to declare class warfare on low-income working people in this country. There is no other result.

But now they want to lie about it. Now they want to pretend like they were not part of it. Now they want to pretend like they are going to fix it. No, the Bush-Cheney class in America just declared warfare on working families. But that is only the beginning, because it is the Bush-Cheney class in America that has denied those same families an increase in the minimum wage because many of these families work at the minimum wage. The minimum wage today is worth \$4.75 in real wages. They will not increase it. They will not give those families the child tax credit. This week later on the floor they are going to try to take away their overtime pay, and they are passing regulations so fewer and fewer Americans are eligible for overtime, a pay that many Americans use to hold their families together because that increase in pay for overtime makes a difference in their yearly salary in the support of their families. And, of course, for many of these same children who will not get the child tax credit, they are taking away their health care at the State level.

When is it that the Bush administration decided that they were going to declare war on America's working families, especially low-income working families? One of my colleagues was here talking about how they fixed the marriage penalty, that they got rid of the marriage penalty. Well, if two people who are earning 10 or \$12,000 a year get married, as single people, they would get a \$2,500 credit because they are both low-income working people. If they get married, they lose \$1,000 of their credit. They have almost a 50 percent tax assessed on them because they get married.

Why is this happening to these people who are struggling to get up and go to work every day? Every day they go to work in hard, difficult jobs, jobs that many Americans would prefer not to do. And at the end of the year they end

up poor. They end up struggling to take care of their children. They end up struggling to educate them. They end up struggling to provide them health care. They end up struggling to provide them with decent housing. And this government, this administration, the Bush administration, has decided to cut them out of the tax bill.

And they want to talk about fairness in America? They want to talk about justice in America? They want to talk about freedom in America? I do not think so, Mr. and Mrs. America, because they made a conscious decision.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

The Chair must remind Members to avoid personally offensive references to the President.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

REGARDING YESTERDAY'S FCC DECISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make a public service announcement. Yesterday was an extremely important day in this country's history.

□ 1115

The FCC voted to allow increased consolidation of the media. They are tightening the noose on the neck of the First Amendment.

The NRA is opposed to what happened yesterday, and so is JIM McDERMOTT, so you know how damning what happened yesterday really is. If you can get people as far apart as the NRA and me on the same issue, you have got a real problem in this country.

Now, my public service announcement is this: Stop watching the U.S. press. Stop watching the television. It is the opiate of the masses. They are using it to put you to sleep. You should cancel your subscription and buy a subscription to a foreign newspaper, maybe the Financial Times of London, or the Guardian, or the Scotsman from Edinburgh or the Sunday Herald from Sidney, Australia.

Why do I say this? Because you have to read the foreign press to find out what is going on in this country. The Financial Times of London was the one that reported that the President hid, or, excuse me, I should not mention the President, it was the administration that hid the report that says we are going to be \$44 trillion in debt because of these tax cuts. To put that in per-

spective, that means every single American, every man, woman and child, everything they earn for 4 years, that is what \$44 trillion is. And the President and his folks did not want us to know about it, so they left it out. But the London Times found it.

Reuters came up with a story about the chaos in Iraq. You think the Iraq war is all over and there is no more problem. According to our press, the only thing that matters is this guy that blew up a bomb in Atlanta about 6 years ago. They have suddenly forgotten Iraq.

But if you listen to what happened, Reuters says they interviewed one of the chiefs in Baghdad who said the entire Iraqi people is a time bomb that will blow up in the Americans' face if they do not end this occupation. "The Iraqi people did not fight the Americans during the war. Only Saddam's people did. But if the people decide to fight them now, they are in big trouble."

One man said, "All of us will become suicide bombers. I will turn my six daughters into bombs to kill the Americans."

That is what we have created over there, and we are glossing over it now. But if you read Reuters, you will find that out. If you do not read Reuters, you will never get it out of our paper.

Then we come to the next issue. You have got to read the Scotland paper, the Edinburgh Scotsman. What do they say? They say regime change in Iran is starting a countdown. That is the editorial headline. Regime change has not been in any of the speaking so far, but you start to see that the phrase has found its way into a bunch of briefings. And now, it is not a done deal, there is a big fight between the war department and the State Department. The war department is the one that took us into Afghanistan, they took us into Iraq, and they are over there ready to go again. It sounds sort of familiar. It is the same way the drumbeat started in this country in September when I said that the President would lie to take us to war. People were outraged. How could you say such a thing?

Well, where are the weapons of mass destruction? Please tell me. I am looking. Mr. Blair is going to have an investigation of him.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Members must avoid personally offensive references to the President.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for that reminder.

Mr. Blair is going to be under investigation in the British House of Commons. One member said it is worse than Watergate, what has gone on in Great Britain.

But in this country, do we expect the Republican Party to come out and investigate the President of the United States, misleading us, or the administration misleading us, excuse me? The administration misled us, these name-

less, faceless people they put out there, sent out there to tell what they wanted said.

That is what you have to get. You will get this if you read the Scotsman. If you do not read the Scotsman, you will not know where we are going next.

You know, last night another American soldier died, another American soldier died in Iraq, shot in an ambush. Now, every one of those soldiers is important. When I was a psychiatrist during the Vietnam War and I dealt with these kids coming back, they were all important, and that kid that was killed last night was important. But you will not hear anything about it in our media, because you are not reading the right stuff.

Get rid of the paper. It is the opiate of the masses.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Right Reverend John Clark Buchanan, Retired Episcopal Bishop of West Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You gave us this good land for our heritage. May we always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the diverse multitudes brought to this welcoming land. Endow with wisdom those to whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government, especially this House of Representatives, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Your law, we may show forth Your praise among the nations of the Earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in You to fail, a prayer we bring to Your throne of grace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.